

# St. James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School



*"All Special in God's Eyes"*

*Our Church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.*

*Psalm 92.13*

*John 10.10*

This month we have been learning about Truthfulness and have been doing this through the scripture *"These are the things you should do: speak the truth to one another. In the courts, give real justice — the kind that brings peace."* Zechariah 8.16. We have been reflecting on truthfulness throughout this term and have considered the circumstances where telling the truth is very important and the value of honesty. We have continued with our weekly worship with Father Peter and have welcomed Father Paul into the school for whole school worships on Thursday as well as to work with classes. Father Paul came in last week to watch the Year 5 children's group performances on historical figures. The children were very excited for Father Paul to visit and thoroughly enjoyed showing him the final product of their hard work.

Our Family Fridays have been lots of fun this month! We started off with a Sports Afternoon for the children which was in the school hall and saw the children working with our sports coaches from BFC in the Community. The week after was the Father's Day lunch and, although we had to move the picnic indoors due to the wet weather, went extremely well. There were lots of relatives in attendance and it was really nice to meet the important men in our pupils' lives. This led onto another fantastic Family Friday; the Eid celebrations! The school hall was full of families from within the St James' community, who had come to taste homemade Indian cuisine and learn all about Eid. The children loved the different Eid themed activities and spending time with their families definitely brightened up another wet Friday afternoon!

Our St James' pupils have been very busy with sporting events this month. The children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a Quad Kids Athletics event. Each child took part in six different athletic events including long jump, chest push and a relay race. All the children did exceptionally well in all the events they took part in and cheered each other on. Pupils from Year 5 took part in a cluster orienteering event at Stoneyholme Primary School. The team showed good determination, excellent map reading skills and super teamwork to find all of the points on their map. All the children had a good time and enjoyed learning some new skills. Three of our Year 6 boys qualified for the Elite Cross Country final that was held at Townley Hall. All the boys ran an exceptional race giving their all over the whole distance. The boys finished 93<sup>rd</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>! We are extremely proud of them!

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Some of our Year 5 pupils attended a presentation from Clare Balding at Westholme Primary School on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Clare Balding OBE is a well-known broadcaster, journalist and author. The children were all very excited to meet her as they have read her series of books about a racehorse. They all bought copies of her newest edition from the event and came back to school very excited to read it!

The choir children have been working very hard in rehearsals this month as on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June they performed at Burnley's Gotta Sing. This is a performance at the Mechanics Theatre which many schools from the Burnley area take part in. The children's hard work in rehearsals paid off as they were excellent and made us all very proud. We were delighted to see that many St James' parents and family members had booked tickets for the event which really made the evening special to see the St James' community all together to support our pupils.

Earlier this month was the third round of the Spelling Bee. Mrs Riley, who came back to school from her maternity leave after the half term, took 6 children to the Spelling Bee on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. One of our Year 6's, Arooj, took part in the third round and came second place! We are all delighted at Arooj's achievement and very impressed with the effort all of the children have made throughout the competition. They have all worked very hard and have displayed brilliant sportsmanship at every event.

The Year 6's went on their residential from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> June and what a fantastic time they had! They went to Whitehough Outdoor Centre which is ran by BFC in the Community. This was our first year attending the facilities and we will definitely be going again! Despite the rain, the children took part in events from first thing in the morning to around 8pm each night. Activities included; low ropes, high ropes, archery, canoeing, climbing, hill walking, mountaineering and orienteering. The children also got to complete a survival skills course and team building activities. All staff that attended the residential said that the children were fantastic and worked really hard on all of the different tasks. We are very pleased with how well the residential went and are looking forward to all of the exciting activities taking place for the Year 6's next month.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June was a very busy day with the Spelling Bee and Whitehough taking place. We also had an Induction Evening on where the parents/carers of children starting with us in September visited school for an information session. The Senior Leadership Team, Chair of Governors, SENCO PTFA Secretary, Key Stage 1 and EYFS staff as well as the office and pastoral support team all took part in the presentation to give the new parents and carers a well-rounded view of the school and introduce themselves to the parents in preparation for their children's transition. Our school cook, Sharon, also attended the event and prepared a selection of food for the attendees to try. She was also on hand to discuss any dietary requirements should the parents/carers wish to. The evening was very successful with lots of parents and carers attending so we feel very prepared for our new 'seedlings' to join us in September.

Our gardeners (the current Year 5's) will be working on their letters soon which they will then give to the new reception children as part of the Gardeners and Seeds programme within school. The children due to be in Year 6 in September are paired up with a new Reception child, this partnership continues throughout the course of the year. This helps with the transition to school for the reception children but is also an exciting project for the gardeners as they get to increase their level of responsibility as they become role models for their seedlings.

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As always, I am proud to be the Head Teacher of such a wonderful school, with highly skilled and a dedicated staff team, where everyone works hard together and as one team with the goal to inspire each individual to grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Stott

Headteacher

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